



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

TENNESSEE WHEAT YIELD EXPECTED TO BE THIRD HIGHEST ON RECORD

NASHVILLE, May 10, 2012 – Tennessee wheat producers were greeted with exceptionally warm weather this spring, providing ideal growing conditions until just after Easter, when many areas had near freezing to freezing temperatures. The balance of April was exceptionally dry, but despite these circumstances, winter wheat is rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition. Tennessee's winter wheat production is projected to total 22.7 million bushels, up 6 percent from a year ago according to a May 1 survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. The state's average yield is expected to be 63.0 bushels per acre, the third highest yield on record, just 6 bushels short of last year's record yield. Tennessee farmers seeded 440,000 acres last fall, up 5 percent from the previous year. Wheat producers expect to harvest 360,000 acres for grain, 50,000 more than a year ago. The remaining 80,000 acres were used as a cover crop or will be harvested for hay or silage. By the week ending May 6 almost fifty percent of this year's winter wheat crop was turning color, ripening at a pace more than two and a half weeks ahead of normal.

United States: Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.69 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 2011. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 47.6 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from last year. Expected grain area totals 35.6 million acres, up 10 percent from last year. As of May 1, sixty-four percent of the winter wheat crop in the 18 major producing States was rated in good to excellent condition, 30 points above the same week in 2011, and heading had reached 54 percent, 30 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., May 1, 2012 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	520	480	58.0	57.0	30,160	27,360
Georgia	200	200	55.0	52.0	11,000	10,400
Kentucky	440	450	70.0	60.0	30,800	27,000
Mississippi	335	450	64.0	56.0	21,440	25,200
Missouri	680	700	50.0	51.0	34,000	35,700
North Carolina	610	750	68.0	60.0	41,480	45,000
TENNESSEE	310	360	69.0	63.0	21,390	22,680
Virginia	250	290	71.0	64.0	17,750	18,560
United States	32,314	35,580	46.2	47.6	1,493,677	1,693,710

¹ 2012 forecast, 2011 final.

TENNESSEE HAY SUPPLIES DOWN 4 PERCENT

Tennessee: Hay stocks on Tennessee farms May 1 were 18 percent of the total 2011 production at 716,000 tons, down 30,000 tons from a year earlier. Over the last six months, hay was used at a rate close to that of the five-year average, totaling 2.39 million tons. Hay stocks were mostly adequate, as a fairly mild winter allowed pastures to green-up early so that the livestock could return to pasture sooner. As of the week ending May 6, eighty percent of pastures were reported to be in fair-to-good condition. The first cutting of hay began in mid-April approximately three weeks ahead of the norm.

United States: All hay stored on farms May 1, 2012, totaled 21.4 million tons, down 4 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2011 - May 1, 2012 totaled 69.3 million tons, compared with 79.9 million tons for the same period a year ago. This is the smallest disappearance since 1985.